ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY

ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 11 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

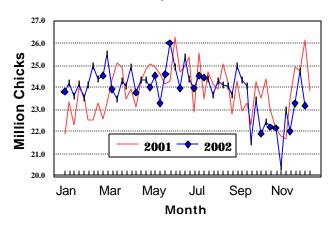
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 23.2 million during the week ending December 21, 2002. Placements were down 11 percent from the comparable week in 2001, and down 6 percent from the previous week, and included 2.47 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 21, 2002 were 1.2 billion, up fractionally from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 24.2 million, down 6 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and down 1 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.2 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.6 percent.

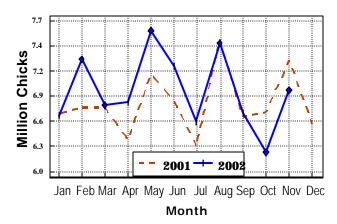
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 30.1 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending December 21, 2002, down 3 percent from the same period last year, and down 1 percent from the previous week.

Leading breeders in the **UNITED STATES** placed 6.9 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2002, down 4 percent from November 2001.

ARKANSAS BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS BY WEEK. 2001 - 2002



U.S. BROILER-TYPE PULLET CHICKS PLACED FOR DOMESTIC HATCHERY SUPPLY FLOCKS



NET PLACEMENTS IN ARKANSAS

Week	Yea	%						
Ending	2001	2002	Change					
	1,000							
Nov.	21,833	20,431	94					
Nov.	21,689	22,968	106					
Nov.	23,459	21,996	94					
Dec.	24,937	23,291	93					
Dec.	24,756	24,762	100					
Dec.	26,129	23,161	89					

U.S. PULLET CHICKS PLACED

	Yea	%			
Month	2001	2002	Change		
	1,00				
June	6,822	7,206	106		
July	6,326	6,602	104		
Aug.	7,494	7,449	99		
Sep.	6,647	6,691	101		
Oct.	6,704	6,265	93		
Nov.	7,261	6,938	96		

BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2002

	EGGS SET (in Thousands)				CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)							
	Week Ending			1/		Week Ending				1/		
STATE	30-Nov	07-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	%	16-Nov	23-Nov	30-Nov	07-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	%
Alabama	28,164	27,958	27,883	27,883	96	19,494	19,786	20,386	20,953	21,362	21,620	100
ARKANSAS	29,362	29,336	30,240	30,054	97	20,431	22,968	21,996	23,291	24,762	23,161	89
Delaware	3,600	3,415	3,389	3,399	93	4,245	4,909	4,810	5,392	5,115	5,494	100
Florida	2,258	1,582	1,592	1,594	67	2,270	2,348	2,467	2,091	1,696	1,720	69
Georgia	30,424 *	30,687 *	30,581 *	29,971	95	21,534	22,866	24,294	25,182 *	24,734 *	24,601	94
Kentucky	6,174 *	6,636	6,741	6,519	106	4,505	4,887	5,020	5,443	5,378	5,100	96
Maryland	9,890	9,933	9,925	9,834	101	5,965	6,160	6,131	5,221	5,475	5,725	82
Mississippi	18,691	18,505	18,826	18,627	98	13,673	13,872	15,265	15,125	15,285	15,907	102
N. Carolina	18,279 *	18,207	18,605	18,219	95	13,951	14,230	14,122	13,614	14,344	14,357	95
Oklahoma	6,320	6,386	6,243	6,363	98	3,895	3,269	5,144	4,525	3,957	4,647	103
Pennsylvania	3,738	3,599	3,643	3,677	95	2,391	2,585	2,588	2,299	2,566	2,558	96
S. Carolina	4,632	4,526	4,676	4,698	95	3,510	3,684	3,870	3,440	3,225	3,518	94
Texas	14,941	14,875	15,131	14,756	98	10,040	11,623	12,241	11,711	12,084	11,822	100
Virginia	6,211	5,984	6,230	6,226	94	4,297	4,444	5,288	4,861	5,221	5,253	103
CA,LA,MO,TN,WV	19,777	19,275	20,179	18,849	94	17,327	17,422	18,253	18,823	17,556		105
Total 2002	202,461 *		203,884 *			147,528	155,053	161,875	161,971 *			
Total 2001	211,929	204,465	207,067	208,836		150,878	158,581	165,267	167,382	166,079	170,266	
% Prev. Year	96	98	98	96		98	98	98	97	98	96	
Approximate Marketing Date 2003												

^{*} Revised . 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 201 million eggs during the week ending December 21, 2002. This was down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED DOWN 4 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 21, 2002. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week in 2001. Cumulative placements from December 30, 2001 through December 21, 2002 were 8.49 billion.